

Mariesa Partinico at Pima Community College Pathways to Healthcare Program

Mariesa Partinico, mother of three, was unemployed for about six months before learning about the Pathways to Healthcare Program at Pima Community College, a Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) program funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance. Unemployment Insurance was only temporary and was not nearly enough income to pay the family's bills. Referred to Pathways after seeking assistance from the local One-Stop Career Center, Mariesa was excited about the opportunity to embark on a career in the high-demand medical office field.

With assistance and guidance from Pathways advisors and case managers, Mariesa successfully completed her Medical Records Technician/Professional Medical Coding Specialist training. HPOG funding and a Pell grant covered her tuition and textbook costs and helped with monthly bills and her mortgage.

Prior to completing her training, Mariesa accepted a job offer as a Billing Authorization Clerk. "With the flexibility and support of the instructors, I was able to work my school time around my family needs without the stress of missing a class," Mariesa says. "I actually had four job offers in the field after I accepted the job. Without the HPOG schooling, I wouldn't be in the medical industry, and now that I am, I see a lot of opportunity for growth."

After graduating, Mariesa received a promotion and encouragement to further her education. She has now sought the assistance of HPOG staff in preparing to continue along the career pathway by entering the Health Information Technology Program.